The Invisible War - **wk 5 – How to pray**

**We are talking about the mysterious gift of Prayer. The greatest privilege and most important thing a follower of Jesus can do.**

**Yet often the #1 most neglected spiritual tool we have.**

**Prayer is not mediation, reflection or positive thinking. It’s not so much something we do, but someone we are with. It’s a place – with God.**

**My prayer story – thankful for what I learned – but I had become a pharisee. (You must pray like me.) I also had to be set free.**

**WHEN YOU PRAY**

**Matthew 6:5 “And when you pray, (Jesus assumes his disciples will pray) do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. (to get attention – to impress others – to show how spiritual they are) Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. (peoples honor – “wow you are really spiritual”)**

**\* Remember - You don’t need to be a professional at praying.**

**Good news, you can stumble, stutter, struggle thru. He loves it**

**6 But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. (Room is actual & symbolic – maybe you need an actual place – He’s not forbidding public prayer, Jesus did it often. Lord’s pray is corporate – this highlights the heart of prayer) Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. (The reward is the presence of God – God is the reward)**

**\* Remember – Prayer requires more of the heart than the tongue**

**Basic def. Prayer is “Talking to God” – not talking to people.**

**Prayers is always directed to God alone - not to people**

**Your heart – is what God looking for – your motives & humility.**

**7 And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. (repetitious, formulas, intense, sweaty, stomping, demanding, many times selfish prayers - absent our heart)**

**\* Remember – You cannot impress God with your prayers**

**Prayer is not about getting favor from God, or a golden ticket.**

**I do not pray better than any of you – but I might pray more confidently. Your sincere prayers, rooted deep in Christ, are powerful.**

**God responds to relationship, not technique.**

**Remember prayer is about a place with the person Jesus – the secret place of the heart – Do you find God useful or beautiful?**

**8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.**

**\* Remember – Prayer is about fueling our faith not informing our God.**

**God is not absent minded, distracted, or need current news.**

**You can’t tell him something he doesn’t know. \*\*Right now – God knows what you are going through!**

**Jesus then gives most famous prayer on the planet - the Lord’s Prayer.**

**Matthew 6:9 “This, then, is how you should pray: “‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us today our daily bread. 12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.’ *(For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.)* (It’s not an incantation, good luck charm, or a penance)**

**This includes everything - the supremacy of God, dependency on God, kingdom of God, will of God, and the power of God.**

**The Lord’s Prayer is a model to follow, not a magical saying to recite. The Lord’s prayer is less formula and more an outline**

**It’s simple yet spectacular - 5 parts that teach us how to prayer**

**Let’s** BREAK **it** DOWN

**1. Praise “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name” (holy is your name)**

**When we pray - it starts with a call to worship – a declaration of his holiness, greatness, and faithfulness – humility.**

**Our – We need to learn to praise & pray together (our / us / we – used 8X)**

**The community of God calling out to God together. (Matt 18:19)**

**Father – Prayer is relationship based – A family privilege**

**Not formula, form, or fashion based– but Father based**

**Not just a parent, but a Father = masculine, strong, authority**

**This is the closest possible relationship w/ God – special title. Literally “Daddy” – A title for my children. This is profound.**

**Other religions represent God as a creator, ruler, commander, judge, or king – only the Bible reveals the true God as Father! A loving – caring – nurturing – protective Father who calls us his own family.**

**Your view of your Father can play a role in your faith. Father wound. If you have a poor father – know this – Dad is Good!**

**Often called the Lord’s prayer - it was given to the disciples – this is really the disciples prayer. A prayer only true disciples can pray.**

**It is true we all have a Father – Jesus tell us there are two Father’s**

**John 8:44 - The Father of lie’s – the bad father – many follow his lies**

**James 1:17 - The Father of light’s – the good loving father of Heaven**

**Who do you believe? Who do you follow? Who is you father?**

**In heaven – God’s ways are not like ours**

**God is infinitely above the earth and over the earth. “Heavenly Father”**

**Mormon call him “heavenly father” – but it’s not same father**

**Isaiah 55:8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

**We pray to our Father who is over all - knows all - sees all – created all – He is Omniscient / omnipresent / omnipotent / immutable (Ac 4:24-31)**

**Holy (Hallowed) – God is good, perfect, and different in all His ways.**

**Holy = separate / righteous / good / not like us / set apart / perfect!**

**(angels forever declare) Isaiah 6:3 And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”**

**He is good, faithful & trustworthy Never does evil. (James 1:13).**

**When life takes a turn - prayers are unanswered… When pain & tragedy strike, God is still good, perfect and all powerful**

**Our prayers w/ God are rooted in this – God is always majestic, merciful, impartial, and magnificently good. Ps 119:68**

**Is Your name – There is something about that name!**

**What is the name of God? The proper name was introduced in Gen 2 - Genesis 2:4 …the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. (Leviticus 22:32)**

**The name of God – YahWeH – Most often translated as - LORD**

**Lord God - Hbw tetragrammaton “4 letters”: YHWH (Yod Heh Vav Heh). Transliterated to Yahowah (Adoni) = Jehovah.**

**The many names of God in the Bible declare his attributes and power!**

**El (God), El Eloah (strong one) / Elohim (creator) / El-Gibhor (mighty)**

**El shaddai (almighty – Lord of more than enough) / Atik Yomin (ancient of days)**

**El Roi (God who sees all things) / El Olam (God the everlasting to everlasting)**

**Adonai (God our master) / Alpha Omega (God who was and is and is to come!)**

**Yahweh-Saboath – Lord of Hosts (Lord of the Heavens)**

**Yahweh-Yirah – Lord our provider / Yahweh-Tsidkenu – Lord our righteousness**

**Yahweh-Shalom – Lord our peace / Yahweh-M'Kaddish – Lord our sanctification**

**Yahweh-Rophe – Lord our healer / Yahweh-Magen – Lord our shield & protector**

**Yahweh-Nissi – Lord our victory and banner / Yahweh-Rohi – Lord our shepherd**

**Yahweh-El Elyon – Lord most high / Yahweh-Shamah – Lord who is always near**

**But there is one more name – a name above all names – The One who fulfills all the names, Yeshua Hamashiach (hbw) = iesous Christo (gk) = we know Him as Jesus Christ!**

**He is Yahweh with in Human skin. He is Yahweh who has come to save his people! Yeshua – Lit means Yahweh saves**

**Philippians 2: 5b Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9** **Therefore God exalted him (Jesus - Yeshua) to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (you will confess that name… as a foe or as a friend)**

**There is no greater name - Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." - It is the name by which we are saved - the name the demons tremble at - JESUS!**

**I live to make his name famous, make his name great, to establish and extend his kingdom and love! To lift high, the name of Jesus!**

**Praise – then**

**2. Purpose “your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”**

**Possibly the most dangerous part of the prayer. A surrender to trust & authority of God. Something we don’t tend to do well.**

**This is the prayer filter – for all other prayers – his will not ours**

* **There is a King – His Name is Jesus (your kingdom come)**

**1 Tim 6:15 – Jesus, “…the only sovereign, king of kings, and Lord of Lords.**

**Rev 17:14 – “He is the Lord of Lords, and King of Kings, those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.” / Rev 19:16 – it’s on his robe and thigh.**

**He is the King above all - either realize it now or too late later**

* **There is a Kingdom – the kingdom of heaven**

**His Kingdom has come - Jesus / Holy Spirit in us and**

**His Kingdom is coming - Jesus return & establishing His kingdom**

**His Kingdom is moving - As a follower of Jesus the kingdom is in you**

**Christian you are the “King’s Dominion” His Kingdom is here right now in you! We are not all citizens of this kingdom…**

**This Kingdom exists wherever His divine rule is acknowledged**

**As followers of Jesus we are to do – Kingdom Business**

**80’s movie - Blues Brothers – “we’re on a mission from God”**

**“they kingdom… as it is in heaven” - In Heaven God rules w/out question. There is no debate, question, or discussion. The angels respond ready to follow His will. We are to offer that kind of obedience in our prayers.**

**Matt 6:10 - Your will be done…**

* **There is a surrendering to the king - To the rule & reign of Jesus**

**When we do that, we actually become part of God’s itinerary.**

**We are to acknowledge His reign over our life / our family / our church / our work / our community / our country / our world!**

**Prayer is aligning our will to his will – God what do you want?**

**Does prayer change things? – No. God changes things. If prayer alone changed things, world religions would have incredible impact. Instead, God alone thru Jesus determines and accomplished his will.**

**It’s been said God will bend you but won’t break you. But Truth is, He will break you – but he won’t crush you. The plan is to break us. our will, bullheadedness, self-sufficiency (Ps 51:17, 147:3, 34:15-19)**

**The amazing wonder of prayer is this - Isaiah 57:15 For this is what the high and exalted One says - he who lives forever, whose name is holy: “I live in a high and holy place, but also with the one who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.**

**The all-powerful is close to the humble and broken in spirit.**

**Trials and tragedies can be so valuable to align to His will.**

**Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**(We must get this first part – before we can understand the next) 11 Give us today our daily bread. (When we get our will right – we get the ask right)**

**3. Provision (3 areas) 1 - Practical needs – “Give us today our daily bread”**

* **God wants us to ask! (Matthew 6:11 Give us today our daily bread.)**

**John 16:24 Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.**

**James 4:2b You do not have because you do not ask God.**

**1 Peter 5:7 Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.**

**We should never hesitate to ask. We are invited to ask.**

**Jesus cares about what you have need of.**

**How often? “daily bread” God wants us to walk with Him –Trusting daily We need him every day! Lament. 3:22 – mercy’s new every morning.**

**BTW - It does not say “give us this day our Mercedes”. This is a prayer for our needs not our greed’s! Psalm 37:4 “Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart.” (John 7:17, 1 John 5:14-15,**

**Remember we ask with the prayer filter, sifter – the will of God. If we focus on God’s will, we begin to desire what He desires**

**\*Life teams this week – what not to pray for and not to pray for. And the big question – if God knows everything and is all powerful – Why pray?**

**3. Provision (3 areas)**

**2 -Spiritual needs – “And forgive us our sins” (debts, trespasses)**

**Sin is a debt (debt is the best understanding of this word for sin)**

**When you buy something, you can’t pay for / take something that is not yours to take – a debt is incurred. Our debts / sins / are many**

**Debt to the listeners of Jesus was an economic slavery (often selling out of family) - bound to a master / Debt to us is spiritual slavery (selling out our relationships) – bound to sin**

**Jesus invites you to bring your debt!**

**That debt / that sin you are guilty of – bring it – lay at his feet.**

**Jesus on the cross shouted – PAID IN FULL!**

**Often nailed on the door of a home – it was a declaration! Jesus became our debt and was nailed to a cross.**

**Colossians 2:13 ...and you, who were dead in your trespasses… God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross.**

**Debt is erased - paid in full. He did not sit down and work out a payment plan with us – he strikes a nail through it. PAID!!!**

**There is nothing out of reach for Jesus - Nothing too ugly - No sin is beyond the grace of Jesus – No one is too far away!**

**Leads to the next part - What Jesus gives you, you are to give.**

**Provision: Practical needs / spiritual needs**

* **Relational needs – “as we also have forgiven our debtors”**

**Our forgiveness is not payment – the cross is. It was paid for you. Forgives is not needing to ask you for it. Jesus gave me what you took.**

**If I gave you $20 and said give it away – do you have it to give? In other words, give the mercy you’ve been given.**

**Matt 6:12 And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.**

**Follower of Jesus - Forgiveness is required, it is not an option.**

**This is a freedom and a challenge. (we’ve done whole series.)**

**If you have been given debt relief - We are to freely give it.**

**4. Protection “lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”**

**The last 4 weeks have dealt with this one exclusively.**

**Ephesians 6:12 For our struggle (the struggle is real) is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.**

**The unseen battle. It is not a co-worker, dad, boss, kid at school, political party, Hollywood, culture - it’s fallen angels.**

**The enemy is a killer, liar, &deceiver, he seeks to devour your family. Dad – do you pray for your kids / wife – daily? Mom… son, daughter, friend… do you seek God’s face for your life?**

**Good news… If you are a follower of Jesus, we can stand because we have already won! Calvary defeated the enemy!!**

**Which why we can end with…**

**5. Praise “For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever”**

**End with worship and praise! For who He is what He’s done!**

**Let’s pray and praise now!**

**1. Praise “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name” (holy is your name)**

**2. Purpose “your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”**

**3. Provision**

* **Practical needs – “Give us today our daily bread”**
* **Spiritual needs – “And forgive us our sins”**
* **Relational needs – “as we also have forgiven our debtors”**

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